

Whereas multiple sclerosis is not genetic, contagious, or directly inherited, but studies show that there are genetic factors that indicate that certain individuals are susceptible to the disease;

Whereas multiple sclerosis symptoms occur when an immune system attack affects the myelin in nerve fibers of the central nervous system, damaging or destroying it and replacing it with scar tissue, thereby interfering with, or preventing the transmission of, nerve signals;

Whereas in rare cases, multiple sclerosis is so progressive that it is fatal;

Whereas there is no known cure for multiple sclerosis;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition, an affiliation of multiple sclerosis organizations dedicated to the enhancement of the quality of life for all those affected by multiple sclerosis, recognizes and celebrates Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition's mission is to increase opportunities for cooperation and provide greater opportunity to leverage the effective use of resources for the benefit of the multiple sclerosis community;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition recognizes and celebrates Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week during 1 week in March every calendar year;

Whereas the goals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week are to invite people to join the movement to end multiple sclerosis, encourage everyone to do something to demonstrate a commitment to moving toward a world free of multiple sclerosis, and to acknowledge those who have dedicated their time and talent to help promote multiple sclerosis research and programs; and

Whereas in 2009, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week is recognized during the week of March 2nd through March 8th: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(2) encourages States, territories, and possessions of the United States and local communities to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(3) encourages media organizations to participate in Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week and help educate the public about multiple sclerosis;

(4) commends the efforts of the States, territories, and possessions of the United States and local communities that support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(5) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the people of the United States to combating multiple sclerosis by promoting awareness about the causes and risks of multiple sclerosis, and by promoting new education programs, supporting research, and expanding access to medical treatment; and

(6) recognizes all people in the United States living with multiple sclerosis, expresses gratitude to their family members and friends who are a source of love and encouragement to them, and salutes the health care professionals and medical researchers who provide assistance to those living with multiple sclerosis and continue to work to find cures and improve treatments.

**PROCLAIMING CASIMIR PULASKI TO BE AN HONORARY CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES POSTHUMOUSLY**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 12.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 12) proclaiming Casimir Pulaski to be an honorary citizen of the United States posthumously.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I speak on the resolution honoring the valor of GEN Casimir Pulaski, a hero of the American Revolution who made the ultimate sacrifice in pursuit of American freedom. This resolution would grant honorary posthumous citizenship to General Pulaski, a long overdue tribute to a man who gave his life to the cause of American independence.

I thank Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, the lead Republican cosponsor of this resolution, as well as other original cosponsors, Senators MIKULSKI, CARDIN, WHITEHOUSE, DODD, BROWN, BURRIS, and PRYOR.

As a young soldier, Casimir Pulaski developed a reputation as a highly skilled military tactician, whose activities to advance the cause of Polish liberty against Russian influence ultimately led to his exile from Poland. Seeking refuge, Pulaski traveled to France, where he met an American diplomat who convinced him to join the Continental Army in its struggle for independence. That diplomat was so impressed with the Polish general, that, in a letter to George Washington, he described Pulaski as an officer "renowned throughout Europe for the courage and bravery he displayed in defense of his country's freedom." That diplomat's name was Ben Franklin.

Casimir Pulaski adopted the revolutionary spirit of the American colonists and came to America to fight in their quest for self-determination.

On September 11, 1777, Casimir Pulaski fought with distinction in the Battle of Brandywine. His bravery and skill in battle averted American defeat and helped save the life of George Washington. Upon Washington's recommendation, the Continental Congress promoted Pulaski to general, and appointed him General of the Cavalry. That same year, Casimir Pulaski wrote to George Washington, "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it." General Pulaski's letter would prove prophetic, when, during a major offensive against British forces in Savannah, GA, Pulaski was mortally wounded. He died at sea, aboard the USS Wasp, on October 11, 1779.

General Pulaski's life and death inspired his contemporaries as he inspires us today. Shortly after his death, the Continental Congress resolved to build a monument in his honor that proved to be the first of many. In 1825, General Lafayette, an honorary American citizen, laid the cornerstone for the Pulaski monument in Savannah, GA. In 1929, Congress re-

solved that October 11 of each year would be Pulaski Day in the United States, and several States have followed that example. There are countless schools, streets, towns, and memorials across this country that bear his name—and honor his contributions to our Nation's birth.

Today is Pulaski Day in Illinois. In 1973, my own state of Illinois designated the first Monday of March as Pulaski Commemorative Day and in 1986 declared that day to be a State holiday.

We in Illinois are privileged to have a large and vibrant Polish-American community. From Casimir Pulaski to legendary artists like Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Polish-Americans have contributed mightily to Illinois—and to our Nation. Chicago is home to the Polish American Congress, which encompasses 3,000 Polish organizations across the country, as well as the Polish Museum of America. The Polish-American community also has a large presence in the Illinois National Guard, which has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with the Polish Air Force.

I am honored to reintroduce this resolution to grant posthumous honorary citizenship to GEN Casimir Pulaski, an American general who gave his life so that our Nation could be free. This resolution passed the Senate by unanimous consent in the 110th Congress and received broad support in the House of Representatives. I hope that this year we will be able to pass this resolution in both Chambers.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and the valor of the man whom we seek to honor. When we think of our Nation's struggle for freedom in its infancy, we must remember GEN Casimir Pulaski and his indelible contribution to our Nation's birth.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read a third time and passed, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 12) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The preamble was agreed to.

The joint resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S.J. RES. 12

Whereas Casimir Pulaski was a Polish military officer who fought on the side of the American colonists against the British in the American Revolutionary War;

Whereas Benjamin Franklin recommended that General George Washington accept Casimir Pulaski as a volunteer in the American Cavalry and said that Pulaski was "renowned throughout Europe for the courage and bravery he displayed in defense of his country's freedom";

Whereas, after arriving in America, Casimir Pulaski wrote to General Washington, "I came here, where freedom is being

defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it.”;

Whereas the first military engagement of Casimir Pulaski with the British was on September 11, 1777, at the Battle of Brandywine, and his courageous charge in this engagement averted a disastrous defeat of the American Cavalry and saved the life of George Washington;

Whereas, on September 15, 1777, George Washington elevated Casimir Pulaski to the rank of Brigadier General of the American Cavalry;

Whereas Casimir Pulaski formed the Pulaski Cavalry Legion, and in February 1779, this legion ejected the British occupiers from Charleston, South Carolina;

Whereas, in October 1779, Casimir Pulaski mounted an assault against British forces in Savannah, Georgia;

Whereas, on the morning of October 9, 1779, Casimir Pulaski was mortally wounded and was taken aboard the American ship *USS Wasp*, where he died at sea on October 11, 1779;

Whereas, before the end of 1779, the Continental Congress resolved that a monument should be erected in honor of Casimir Pulaski;

Whereas, in 1825, General Lafayette laid the cornerstone for the Casimir Pulaski monument in Savannah, Georgia; and

Whereas, in 1929, Congress passed a resolution recognizing October 11 of each year as Pulaski Day in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That Casimir Pulaski is proclaimed to be an honorary citizen of the United States posthumously.

#### DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—S. 473

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 473 and that the bill be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until tomorrow morning at 10 a.m., March 3; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus appropriations bill; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party conference lunches.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, under the previous order, at 11:45 a.m., the Senate will vote in relation to the McCain amendment.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that following the statement of Senator ALEXANDER, the Senate adjourn under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I express my appreciation to my friend from Tennessee for his courteousness, which is always the case.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader. On his comments about the omnibus appropriations bill, two brief points. One is that, of course, all Senators welcome the opportunity to debate and amend the bill. Senator BYRD has argued eloquently, as the majority leader himself has, that the opportunity to debate and amend bills is an important part of what makes the Senate unique. We often tend to argue that point more eloquently when we are in the minority. Amendments and debate are what make the Senate the Senate. It gives us a chance to represent the people who send us—the people for whom we work. All of us on the minority side appreciate that this year the majority leader has—as we believe he should, but nevertheless he has—tried to create an environment in which we can debate and amend. Obviously, amendments aren't going to always be amendments we agree with. I don't agree with all the amendments that come from our side either, but I appreciate that chance to offer amendments, and we would like to see the Senate function in a way that gives us a chance to represent the people who hire us.

Second, I suspect every member of the Appropriations Committee and most Members of the Senate hope we can get back to the practice of passing our appropriations bills one by one and acting on them before the beginning of the fiscal year, which is October 1. I would hate to think how much of the taxpayers' money we must waste each year by missing that deadline, but grouping these measures together into giant “omnibus” bills, and by passing continuing resolutions which don't take into account the differences of opinion among members of Congress and the administration about budget priorities. I would hope we could get back to the practice of finishing our work and taking the bills one by one as we did not so long ago.

I appreciate the majority leader mentioning the fact that we will be debating all week on this appropriations bill, to try and give this massive bill the scrutiny it deserves. It would have been much better if these nine appropriations bills had been enacted last

year, before October 1, and we could take them into account when we voted on the stimulus bill last week. That is the way we should have been able to do that, but we weren't.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would say to my friend who has been Governor of his State and a Cabinet Secretary, ran for President, and now a Member of the Senate, I think he has a foundation of understanding how important it is that we move these appropriations bills. This is a difficult situation. We have done it quite a few times in recent years, and it is not the best way to legislate. The Senator from Tennessee and I agree on that.

I have to say to my friend, there are a number of people in my caucus who come to me and say: Why are you making us take these tough votes and why are you talking about more votes on this bill? Because in keeping with what the Senator from Tennessee said, I hope we can continue doing this. I think the Republicans have not offered some easy amendments—I wish they had been a little easier on us—but that is the way it is. That is why I wanted to spend a little time this evening talking about the range of amendments we already have which have been hard votes and perhaps hard for both sides in many respects.

I support the statement of my friend from Tennessee that we are all going to try to arrive at the same place. It is just that how we get there sometimes doesn't correlate.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the majority leader.

#### IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN WARS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I have two topics I wish to speak about this evening: One on Iraq and one on higher education. First, on Iraq and Afghanistan. President Obama on Friday told marines at Camp Lejeune and the world how the United States plans to end the war in Iraq. The President's plan turns out not to be so different than the agreement President Bush signed with Iraq just before he left office. Add Senator MCCAIN's name to the list because on Friday he generally supported President Obama's decision. For the first time, I think it can be said we have a bipartisan consensus—and a consensus between the Congress and the President—about how to honorably and successfully conclude the war in Iraq.

Ironically, this is a bipartisan consensus that comes 2 years later than it could have. Because what President Bush and President Obama and Senator MCCAIN seemed to agree on today is also a course that is consistent with the recommendations of the bipartisan Iraq Study Group headed by former Republican Secretary of State James Baker and former Democratic House Foreign Affairs Chairman Lee Hamilton. That is not just my judgment. I asked Secretary Rice, the former Secretary of State, whether the agreement